

INFORMATION

Characteristics of Physicians in California, Spring 1961

Highlights of a study being conducted by the Bureau of Research and Planning, California Medical Association

TWENTY-SIX PER CENT of all physicians in California as of the spring of 1961, including those working for hire as well as private practitioners, were in general practice whereas 44 per cent were full-time specialists.

- Of those engaged only in private practice, 32.2 per cent were in general practice, 63.8 per cent were in full-time specialties, and 4.0 per cent were in part-time specialties.
- Densely populated areas have considerably higher proportions of physicians in specialty fields than do sparsely populated areas.
- Among full-time specialties practiced by physicians (excluding those employed by the federal government), the following five fields engage over 60 per cent of all specialists: Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Psychiatry, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Pediatrics.
- Within private practice, the median age of full-time specialists (45.0 years) is below that of general practitioners (47.5 years). The average age of part-time specialists is 53.0 years.

The foregoing data are selected from a mass of information gathered by the C.M.A. Bureau of Research and Planning in the spring of 1961 for study of characteristics of physicians in California.

Phase One of the Bureau's study was analysis of information supplied in a deck of IBM cards containing selected characteristics of physicians in the state of California, which was made available by the American Medical Association. These cards supplied information on physician location, type of practice, specialty, age, school of graduation, and a variety of other data. Additional information about physician characteristics, to be made available as the study progresses, will be based on answers to a census questionnaire completed by almost 13,000

physician respondents in late 1961 and early 1962. These answers, combined with the basic characteristics already on cards, will provide the medical profession with a wealth of information about itself.

The tables in this article contain some basic facts about medical practice in California. Tables 1 and 2 show types of practice by county medical society jurisdiction; Table 1 includes all physicians in the state, and Table 2 includes only those physicians in private practice. Table 3 shows the medical specialty of nonfederal physicians, by type of practice. Table 4 contains an age distribution for nonfederal physicians, also by type of practice.

Table 1: Type of Practice by County Medical Society Jurisdiction, All Physicians

Table 1 shows the distribution of all 27,760 physicians who had California addresses as of spring, 1961. This array locates each physician geographically by county medical society jurisdiction, and further shows numbers and per cents within each society by type of practice. Type of practice categories are as follows: Private practice¹ (further broken down into general practice, which includes part-time specialty, and full-time specialty); hospital service (further broken down to distinguish interns and residents² from other full-time hospital staff members); a third major category which includes medical school staff members, medical administrators, nonfederal public health, physicians practicing dentistry, and physicians employed by industrial or insurance companies on a full-time basis; and a fourth category which includes all physicians who are retired or otherwise not engaged in any kind of medical practice.

In Table 1, physicians employed by the federal government (Veterans Administration, USPHS, and members of the armed forces) are interspersed according to the type of practice in which they are engaged.

Some interesting, if obvious, facts can be detected by analyzing Table 1. It is generally true that the percentage of general practitioners in an area is in inverse proportion to the density of the population of the area. Note that Inyo, Mono, Lassen, Plumas, Modoc, Sierra, San Benito, and Tehama counties all show per cents in general practice above 80 per cent. Conversely, low proportions of general practitioners are found in high-density population areas, particularly the San Francisco and Los Angeles Metropolitan Areas. A few counties defy this general rule due to the existence of high proportions of physicians in fields other than private practice.

¹Due to the coding system used by the A.M.A., some physicians in federal service are included in the "Private Practice" classification. Errors due to this coding inconsistency are negligible, however.

²See other tables for separate breakdown of interns and residents.

TABLE 1.—Type of Practice of All Physicians in California, Spring 1961

County Medical Society	Total Physicians	General Practice ¹			Private Practice			Full-Time Specialty			Intern, Resident			Hospital Service			Teaching, Administration, Research and Other			Not in Medical Practice		
		Number	Per Cent	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Per Cent
Alameda-Contra Costa	2,387	655	27.4	42.5	1,014	42.5	42.5	269	11.3	11.3	192	8.1	5.0	120	5.0	5.0	137	5.7	5.7	137	5.7	5.7
Butte-Glenn	107	53	49.5	37.4	40	37.4	37.4	1	0.9	0.9	4	3.8	...	0	...	...	9	8.4	8.4	9	8.4	8.4
Fresno	412	128	31.1	45.6	188	45.6	45.6	49	11.9	11.9	22	5.3	1.5	6	1.5	1.5	19	4.6	4.6	19	4.6	4.6
Humboldt-Del Norte	106	61	57.5	31.1	33	31.1	31.1	0	...	...	2	1.9	1.9	2	1.9	1.9	8	7.6	7.6	8	7.6	7.6
Imperial	61	30	49.2	42.6	26	42.6	42.6	0	...	...	4	6.6	...	1	1.6	1.6	0	...	...	0	...	...
Inyo-Mono	12	10	83.3	16.7	2	16.7	16.7	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...
Kern	307	116	37.8	41.0	126	41.0	41.0	31	10.1	10.1	14	4.6	1.9	6	1.9	1.9	14	4.6	4.6	14	4.6	4.6
Kings	40	31	77.5	10.0	4	10.0	10.0	9	7.5	7.5	2	5.0	...	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...
Lassen ²	33	27	84.9	3.0	1	3.0	3.0	0	...	...	4	9.1	...	0	...	...	1	3.0	3.0	1	3.0	3.0
Los Angeles	10,787	2,536	23.5	48.7	5,250	48.7	48.7	1,397	12.9	12.9	507	4.7	3.7	398	3.7	3.7	699	6.5	6.5	699	6.5	6.5
Madera	24	19	79.1	12.5	3	12.5	12.5	0	...	...	1	4.2	...	0	...	...	1	4.2	4.2	1	4.2	4.2
Marin	339	86	25.4	53.4	181	53.4	53.4	18	5.3	5.3	10	2.9	2.7	9	2.7	2.7	35	10.3	10.3	35	10.3	10.3
Mendocino-Lake	87	42	48.3	23.0	20	23.0	23.0	7	8.0	8.0	8	9.2	1.2	1	1.2	1.2	9	10.3	10.3	9	10.3	10.3
Merced-Mariposa	77	44	57.1	23.4	18	23.4	23.4	4	5.2	5.2	6	7.8	1.3	1	1.3	1.3	4	5.2	5.2	4	5.2	5.2
Monterey	308	102	33.1	38.3	118	38.3	38.3	13	4.2	4.2	19	6.2	2.3	7	2.3	2.3	49	15.9	15.9	49	15.9	15.9
Napa	164	36	22.0	44.2	41	44.2	44.2	3	1.8	1.8	64	39.0	1.8	3	1.8	1.8	17	10.4	10.4	17	10.4	10.4
Orange	912	286	31.3	48.5	442	48.5	48.5	49	5.4	5.4	30	3.3	1.1	11	1.1	1.1	94	10.3	10.3	94	10.3	10.3
Placer-Nevada	95	53	55.8	20.0	19	20.0	20.0	0	...	...	16	16.8	...	1	...	...	6	6.3	6.3	6	6.3	6.3
Riverside	393	131	33.3	42.5	167	42.5	42.5	20	5.1	5.1	12	3.1	1.8	7	1.8	1.8	56	14.2	14.2	56	14.2	14.2
Sacramento ³	625	213	34.1	45.8	286	45.8	45.8	30	4.8	4.8	32	5.1	4.5	28	4.5	4.5	36	5.7	5.7	36	5.7	5.7
San Benito	13	12	92.3	7.7	1	7.7	7.7	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...
San Bernardino	631	179	28.4	39.1	247	39.1	39.1	54	8.6	8.6	71	11.2	5.4	34	5.4	5.4	46	7.3	7.3	46	7.3	7.3
San Diego	1,734	508	29.3	38.9	675	38.9	38.9	171	9.8	9.8	140	8.1	1.7	29	1.7	1.7	211	12.2	12.2	211	12.2	12.2
San Francisco ⁴	3,765	742	19.7	37.3	1,404	37.3	37.3	911	24.2	24.2	418	11.1	4.1	154	4.1	4.1	136	3.6	3.6	136	3.6	3.6
	(3,172)	(481)	(15.2)	(41.3)	(1,311)	(41.3)	(41.3)	(902)	(28.4)	(28.4)	(200)	(6.3)	(4.6)	(144)	(4.6)	(4.6)	(134)	(4.2)	(4.2)	(134)	(4.2)	(4.2)
San Joaquin ⁵	336	124	36.9	36.3	122	36.3	36.3	43	12.8	12.8	28	8.3	2.1	6	2.1	2.1	12	3.6	3.6	12	3.6	3.6
San Luis Obispo	123	38	30.9	41.5	51	41.5	41.5	6	4.9	4.9	11	8.9	4.9	11	8.9	4.9	11	8.9	8.9	11	8.9	8.9
San Mateo	711	134	18.8	61.3	436	61.3	61.3	43	6.1	6.1	21	3.0	2.5	18	2.5	2.5	59	8.3	8.3	59	8.3	8.3
Santa Barbara	366	73	19.9	50.8	186	50.8	50.8	28	7.7	7.7	11	3.0	2.2	8	2.2	2.2	60	16.4	16.4	60	16.4	16.4
Santa Clara	1,369	262	19.1	46.8	641	46.8	46.8	205	15.0	15.0	78	5.7	5.8	79	5.8	5.8	104	7.6	7.6	104	7.6	7.6
Santa Cruz	142	59	41.6	38.0	54	38.0	38.0	3	2.1	2.1	1	0.7	1.4	2	1.4	1.4	23	16.2	16.2	23	16.2	16.2
Shasta-Trinity	76	36	47.4	44.7	34	44.7	44.7	1	1.3	1.3	3	4.0	...	0	...	...	2	2.6	2.6	2	2.6	2.6
Siskiyou	28	20	71.4	10.7	3	10.7	10.7	0	...	...	2	7.2	...	0	...	...	3	10.7	10.7	3	10.7	10.7
Solano	183	65	35.5	33.3	61	33.3	33.3	5	2.7	2.7	36	19.7	4.4	8	4.4	4.4	8	4.4	4.4	8	4.4	4.4
Sonoma	245	96	39.2	35.1	86	35.1	35.1	14	5.7	5.7	21	8.6	3.3	8	3.3	3.3	20	8.1	8.1	20	8.1	8.1
Stanislaus	202	81	40.1	42.1	85	42.1	42.1	12	5.9	5.9	13	6.4	1.0	2	1.0	1.0	9	4.5	4.5	9	4.5	4.5
Tehama	20	18	90.0	10.0	2	10.0	10.0	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...	0	...	...
Tulare	155	76	49.0	31.6	49	31.6	31.6	5	3.2	3.2	14	9.0	...	1	...	...	10	6.5	6.5	10	6.5	6.5
Ventura	263	85	32.3	32.3	87	32.3	32.3	27	10.3	10.3	39	14.8	0.4	1	0.4	0.4	24	9.1	9.1	24	9.1	9.1
Yolo	49	25	51.0	36.7	18	36.7	36.7	0	...	...	3	6.1	2.1	1	2.1	2.1	2	4.1	4.1	2	4.1	4.1
Yuba-Sutter-Colusa	73	34	46.6	47.9	35	47.9	47.9	0	...	...	1	1.4	1.4	1	1.4	1.4	2	2.7	2.7	2	2.7	2.7
State Total ⁴	27,760	7,326	26.4	44.1	12,256	44.1	44.1	3,422	12.3	12.3	1,860	6.7	3.5	960	3.5	3.5	1,936	7.0	7.0	1,936	7.0	7.0
	(27,167)	(7,065)	(26.0)	(44.8)	(12,163)	(44.8)	(44.8)	(3,413)	(12.6)	(12.6)	(1,642)	(6.0)	(3.5)	(950)	(3.5)	(3.5)	(1,934)	(7.1)	(7.1)	(1,934)	(7.1)	(7.1)

¹Includes part-time specialty.²Includes Plumas, Modoc and Sierra.³Includes Amador and El Dorado.⁴Figures in parentheses exclude personnel with APO and FPO addresses.⁵Includes Calaveras, Alpine and Tuolumne.

This is true, for example, of Napa County, where many physicians are in hospital service and of Santa Barbara County, which shows a high proportion of retired physicians.

Above-average proportions of full-time specialists seem to relate to two factors: High population density and high incomes of the population. The relation to the former factor is evidenced in such counties as Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, and Santa Clara; the relation to the latter factor in such counties as Marin, San Mateo, and Santa Barbara.

High percentages of physicians in hospital service correlate with high population density, a fact which appears also to be true for physicians in teaching, research, administration, and other types of specialized fields.

Above-average proportions of retired physicians are found in those counties which are generally attractive to retired persons, such as for reasons

of climate. Among these counties are Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Riverside, and San Diego. This category includes physicians who have never practiced medicine in California.

The category "other hospital service" is composed entirely of full-time salaried hospital staff members. Napa County shows the greatest per cent of physicians in this classification due to the employment of physicians at Napa State Hospital and at Veterans' Home—a large number in relation to total physicians in the county. This is also true of Placer County, the site of both the Weimar Medical Center (tuberculosis) and DeWitt State Hospital (psychiatric) and of Ventura County, the location of Camarillo State Hospital. Solano County shows a high percentage in this group because of the large hospital at Travis Air Force Base. The last county showing over 10 per cent employed in hospitals is San Bernardino; most of this group are staff members at Patton State Hospital.

TABLE 2.—Type of Practice of Physicians in Private Practice, Spring 1961

County Medical Society Jurisdiction	Total Physicians	General Practice		Full-Time Specialty		Part-Time Specialty	
		Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Alameda-Contra Costa.....	1,591	559	35.1	973	61.2	59	3.7
Butte-Glenn.....	93	50	53.8	40	43.0	3	3.2
Fresno.....	312	112	35.9	187	59.9	13	4.2
Humboldt-Del Norte.....	94	50	53.2	33	36.1	11	10.7
Imperial.....	52	24	46.2	26	50.0	2	3.8
Inyo-Mono.....	11	9	81.8	2	18.2	....	....
Kern.....	230	95	41.3	121	52.6	14	6.1
Kings.....	35	28	80.0	4	11.4	3	8.6
Lassen-Plumas-Modoc-Sierra.....	28	24	85.7	1	3.6	3	10.7
Los Angeles.....	7,577	2,135	28.2	5,132	67.7	310	4.1
Madera.....	22	18	81.8	3	13.6	1	4.6
Marin.....	246	64	26.0	172	69.9	10	4.1
Mendocino-Lake.....	61	36	59.0	20	32.8	5	8.2
Merced-Mariposa.....	53	32	60.4	16	30.2	5	9.4
Monterey.....	193	68	35.2	109	56.5	16	8.3
Napa.....	76	31	36.0	41	59.3	4	4.7
Orange.....	693	241	34.8	424	61.2	28	4.0
Placer-Nevada.....	70	49	70.0	17	24.3	4	5.7
Riverside.....	279	110	39.4	155	56.6	14	4.0
Sacramento-Amador-El Dorado.....	488	195	40.0	276	57.6	17	2.4
San Benito.....	13	11	84.6	1	7.7	1	7.7
San Bernardino.....	404	157	38.9	233	57.7	14	3.4
San Diego.....	1,028	383	37.3	611	59.4	34	3.3
San Francisco.....	1,722	387	22.5	1,270	73.8	65	3.7
San Joaquin-Alpine-Calaveras-Tuolumne.....	245	113	46.1	122	49.8	10	4.1
San Luis Obispo.....	88	36	40.9	51	58.0	1	1.1
San Mateo.....	560	120	21.4	430	76.8	10	1.8
Santa Barbara.....	245	62	25.3	177	72.2	6	2.5
Santa Clara.....	880	216	24.5	631	71.7	33	3.8
Santa Cruz.....	110	48	43.6	53	48.2	9	8.2
Shasta-Trinity.....	70	33	47.1	34	48.6	3	4.3
Siskiyou.....	23	19	82.6	3	13.0	1	4.4
Solano.....	107	53	49.5	51	47.7	3	2.8
Sonoma.....	177	92	52.0	84	47.5	1	0.5
Stanislaus.....	164	73	44.5	84	51.2	7	4.3
Tehama.....	20	17	85.0	2	10.0	1	5.0
Tulare.....	123	65	52.8	48	39.0	10	8.2
Ventura.....	159	67	42.1	85	53.5	7	4.4
Yolo.....	43	22	51.2	18	41.9	3	6.9
Yuba-Sutter-Colusa.....	59	26	44.1	31	52.5	2	3.4
State total.....	18,444	5,930	32.2	11,771	63.8	743	4.0

Table 2: Type of Practice of Physicians in Private Practice

The breakdown of physicians shown in Table 2 further delineates information contained in Table 1. This table enumerates only those physicians who are actively engaged in private practice. These 18,444 general practitioners, full-time specialists,

and part-time specialists comprise slightly more than 70 per cent of all physicians with California addresses. Among private practitioners only, 63.8 per cent are full-time specialists, 32.2 per cent are in general practice, and 4.0 per cent are part-time specialists.

The variations shown in percentages among spe-

TABLE 3.—Nonfederal Practicing Physicians¹:

Specialty	All Nonfederal Physicians		Physicians in Private Practice		General Practice Number	Full-Time Specialty Number	Part-Time Specialty Number
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent			
Allergy.....	74	0.3	68	0.4	....	59	9
Aviation Medicine.....	13	0.1	4	*	....	1	3
Anesthesiology.....	877	3.8	719	3.9	....	670	49
Cardiovascular.....	123	0.5	81	0.4	....	71	10
Dermatology.....	367	1.6	327	1.8	....	316	11
Gastroenterology.....	32	0.1	23	0.1	....	20	3
General Practice.....	7,264	31.2	5,931	32.2	5,931	....	....
Internal Medicine.....	3,049	13.1	2,409	13.1	....	2,409	....
Medical Administration.....	35	0.2	1	*	....	1	....
Neurology.....	61	0.3	36	0.2	....	32	4
Neurosurgery.....	178	0.8	138	0.7	....	136	2
Obstetrics-Gynecology.....	1,469	6.3	1,262	6.8	....	1,160	102
Ophthalmology.....	893	3.8	813	4.4	....	790	23
Orthopedic Surgery.....	740	3.2	632	3.4	....	618	14
Otolaryngology.....	369	1.6	340	1.8	....	336	4
Occupational Medicine.....	180	0.8	118	0.6	....	79	39
Pathology.....	514	2.2	235	1.3	....	224	11
Pediatrics.....	1,289	5.5	1,030	5.6	....	968	62
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.....	48	0.2	29	0.2	....	27	2
Plastic Surgery.....	107	0.5	99	0.5	....	98	1
Psychiatry.....	1,529	6.6	1,030	5.6	....	978	52
Proctology.....	104	0.5	102	0.6	....	88	14
Pulmonary Disease.....	119	0.5	73	0.4	....	55	18
Public Health.....	206	0.9	2	*	....	2	....
Radiology.....	813	3.5	575	3.2	....	563	12
Surgery (General).....	2,260	9.7	1,847	10.0	....	1,561	286
Thoracic Surgery.....	144	0.6	120	0.7	....	120	....
Urology.....	458	2.0	400	2.2	....	389	11
State total.....	23,315	100.0	18,444	100.0	5,931	11,771	742

¹Excludes Retired (1,382) and Not in Practice (336).

²Includes nonfederal public health, dentists, and employees of insurance or industrial companies.

³Includes all interns who have not designated a specialty.

TABLE 4.—Age Distribution and Median Age of

Age	Total Physicians		General Practice		Full-Time Specialty		Part-Time Specialty		Intern		Resident	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Under 30.....	1,390	5.5	94	1.6	16	0.1	....	....	574	74.8	675	30.0
30 to 34.....	2,729	11.0	524	8.9	736	6.2	34	4.5	164	21.3	1,095	48.9
35 to 39.....	4,559	18.2	959	16.1	2,745	23.4	88	11.9	24	3.2	306	13.7
40 to 44.....	3,916	15.7	947	16.0	2,403	20.4	95	12.8	4	0.5	99	4.4
45 to 49.....	3,362	13.4	855	14.4	2,097	18.0	91	12.2	2	0.2	48	2.1
50 to 54.....	2,596	10.3	766	13.0	1,450	12.3	104	14.0	....	....	11	0.5
55 to 59.....	1,852	7.4	551	9.3	952	8.1	88	11.9	....	....	9	0.4
60 to 64.....	1,439	5.8	429	7.2	656	5.5	78	10.5	....	....	....	....
65 to 69.....	1,125	4.5	304	5.1	422	3.6	65	8.7	....	....	....	....
70 to 74.....	762	3.0	214	3.6	172	1.4	39	5.2	....	....	....	....
75 and over.....	1,303	5.2	287	4.8	122	1.0	61	8.2	....	....	....	....
Total.....	25,033	100.0	5,930	100.0	11,771	100.0	743	100.0	768	100.0	2,243	100.0
Median age.....	44.8		47.5		45.0		53.0		2		32.0	

¹Includes nonfederal public health, dentists, insurance company and industrial employees.

²Unable to compute median age.

cialists and general practitioners are to a great extent the same as those explained earlier in connection with Table 1. Shown separately in Table 2, however, are part-time specialists who were combined with general practitioners in Table 1. This separation alone alters the percentage relationship. Per cent differences are somewhat accentuated in Table 2

due to the exclusion of physicians not in private practice. These cases are most apparent in counties which showed high proportions not in private practice in Table 1. Outstanding among these cases are Los Angeles, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties, all of which show high proportions of interns and residents, Napa County, which shows a high

Type of Practice by Specialty, Spring 1961

Physicians Not in Private Practice		Intern Number	Resident Number	Other Hospital Services Number	Full-Time Medical School Number	Medical Administration Number	Research Number	Other ² Number
Number	Per Cent							
6	0.1	....	3	3	....	....	....	....
9	0.2	....	....	....	1	....	....	8
158	3.2	2	85	65	6	....	....	....
42	0.9	....	34	4	2	....	2	....
40	0.8	....	35	1	3	....	....	1
9	0.2	....	7	2	....	....	....	....
1,333	27.4	752 ³	140	133	72	35	58	143
640	13.1	5	429	107	61	4	13	21
34	0.7	....	....	26	1	5	....	2
25	0.5	....	10	5	10	....	....	....
40	0.8	....	30	2	7	....	1	....
207	4.2	....	179	11	15	....	1	1
80	1.6	....	67	10	2	....	....	1
108	2.2	....	94	10	2	....	1	1
29	0.6	....	26	1	1	....	1	....
62	1.3	....	....	....	3	....	....	59
279	5.7	....	133	109	25	....	3	9
259	5.3	5	144	58	25	2	3	22
19	0.4	....	8	6	5	....	....	....
8	0.2	....	5	2	1	....	....	....
499	10.2	....	266	182	15	4	7	25
2	*	....	2	....	....	....	....	....
46	0.9	....	6	37	....	....	....	3
204	4.2	....	14	....	10	1	....	179
238	4.9	....	110	113	14	....	1	....
413	8.5	4	351	46	11	....	....	1
24	0.5	....	13	9	2	....	....	....
58	1.2	....	52	4	2	....	....	....
4,871	100.0	768	2,243	946	296	51	91	476

*Less than .05 of 1 per cent.

Note: Per cents may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Nonfederal Physicians, by Type of Practice, Spring 1961

Hospital Service		Full-Time Medical School		Medical Administration		Research		Other ¹		Retired		Not in Practice	
Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
7	0.7	3	1.0	....	....	10	11.0	3	0.6	....	....	8	2.4
79	8.4	28	9.5	4	7.9	19	20.9	19	4.0	....	....	27	8.0
220	23.3	74	25.0	3	5.8	21	23.0	74	15.5	....	....	45	13.3
181	19.2	64	21.6	2	4.0	20	22.0	65	13.6	3	0.2	33	9.9
118	12.4	44	14.9	4	7.9	6	6.6	61	13.0	6	0.4	30	9.0
109	11.5	35	11.9	7	13.7	6	6.6	75	15.7	9	0.6	24	7.1
88	9.3	22	7.4	9	17.6	3	3.3	73	15.3	24	1.7	33	9.9
65	6.8	14	4.7	7	13.7	3	3.3	52	11.0	92	6.6	43	12.7
56	6.0	10	3.4	8	15.7	1	1.1	40	8.4	177	12.9	42	12.5
15	1.6	2	0.6	4	7.9	1	1.1	12	2.5	282	20.4	21	6.2
8	0.8	....	....	3	5.8	1	1.1	2	0.4	789	57.2	30	9.0
946	100.0	296	100.0	51	100.0	91	100.0	476	100.0	1,382	100.0	336	100.0
44.5		43.3		58.0		39.0		51.0		2		55.1	

proportion of physicians in hospital service, and Monterey, Riverside, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz Counties, which show an above-average per cent of retired physicians.

There is no apparent uniform pattern in the geographic distribution of physicians with part-time specialties. Only two county societies show more than 10 per cent of private practitioners in this category. Both of these societies are composed of basically rural counties, although in Humboldt County over 25 per cent of the population lives in the city of Eureka. Counties in the San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area all show per cents of part-time specialists below the statewide average. Los Angeles and Orange Counties, however, show above-average percentages. It should be observed, in comparing these area figures to statewide averages, that 45 per cent of all private practitioners are in Los Angeles and Orange counties and that another 23 per cent are in the six-county San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area.

Table 3: Specialties of Practicing Physicians by Type of Practice

Table 3 shows the standard 28 specialty classifications for all nonfederal California physicians, for those in private practice, and for those not in private practice. This table indicates a more complete breakdown of type of practice than does Table 1, with interns, residents, medical school faculty, administrators, physicians in research, and other physicians listed separately.

One word of caution regarding the interpretation of Table 3: Interns are generally classified as general practitioners in this table (see footnote 3 in the table). This classification causes a slight overstatement of the total number and per cent of physicians and, to a greater extent, of physicians not in private practice who are actually in "general practice." It is probably also true that an excessive number of hospital administrators and researchers are classified as general practitioners, merely because they fit into no other classification.

In terms of the specialty classification of all nonfederal physicians in California, general practice constitutes more than twice the number of physicians found in any other single specialty. The only other specialty which shows a figure of over 10 per cent of total is internal medicine, with 13.1 per cent of all physicians. Next in order are general surgery (9.7 per cent), psychiatry (6.6 per cent), obstetrics-gynecology (6.3 per cent), and pediatrics (5.5 per cent). Other specialties are each below 5 per cent of the total.

Some interesting differences in specialties between physicians in and not in private practice exist.

Those specialties which show the greatest differentials in favor of physicians in private practice are allergy, dermatology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, and proctology. Conversely, those specialties which show greater than average numbers of physicians not in private practice are the following: Aviation medicine, cardiovascular, neurology, occupational medicine, pathology, psychiatry, pulmonary diseases, public health, and medical administration.

Of interest also is the composition of specialties within the medical practice among residents and practicing physicians. The listings below show the rank order in terms of total numbers of physicians in three types of practice.

TOTAL PHYSICIANS	FULL-TIME SPECIALISTS
1. Internal medicine	1. Internal medicine
2. General surgery	2. General surgery
3. Psychiatry	3. Obstetrics-gynecology
4. Obstetrics-gynecology	4. Psychiatry
5. Pediatrics	5. Pediatrics
6. Ophthalmology	6. Ophthalmology
7. Anesthesiology	7. Anesthesiology
8. Radiology	8. Orthopedic surgery
9. Orthopedic surgery	9. Radiology
10. Pathology	10. Urology

RESIDENTS
1. Internal medicine
2. General surgery
3. Psychiatry
4. Obstetrics-gynecology
5. Pediatrics
6. Pathology
7. Radiology
8. Orthopedic surgery
9. Anesthesiology
10. Ophthalmology

Classifications 1 through 5 show approximately the same ranking among the three categories. Ophthalmology, which ranks sixth among total physicians and full-time specialists, drops to tenth position among residents. Pathology, on the other hand, which ranks tenth among all physicians, and does not appear within the ten among specialists, shows up in sixth position among residents. The four other specialties which appear show less marked differentials. Urology which ranks tenth among specialists, is eleventh in the total ranking of residents.

Table 4: Age Distribution of Nonfederal Physicians, by Type of Practice

Table 4 shows the age distribution and median ages for nonfederal physicians in California, classified by type of practice. The median age for all nonfederal physicians at the time this analysis was made (spring 1961) was 44.8 years. This compares with a median age for *all* physicians of 43.0 years,

since many federal physicians are in younger age groups.³

The median age for physicians in private practice not shown in Table 4) was 46.0 years, a slightly higher figure than for all physicians. Partial reason for this fact is that there are more interns and residents in the distribution, which tend to lower median age than there are retired physicians, which tend to raise it. Since these three heterogeneous groups comprise over half of all physicians not in private practice and counter-balance each other, an average age for physicians not in private practice would not be significant.

Within private practice, the median age of full-time specialists (45.0 years) is slightly below that of general practitioners (47.5 years) and considerably below that of part-time specialists (53.0 years), with the last category showing the highest average age by a margin of seven years over all private-practice physicians.

Among physicians not in private practice (excluding interns, residents, and retired physicians), medical administrators show the highest median age (58.0 years) and physicians in research the lowest median age (39.0 years).

Area age differentials were calculated, but space limitations do not allow their inclusion in this article. The results reveal that the median physician age was highest in rural counties (50.0 years) and in the Santa Barbara area (49.3 years). The former case probably represents a true distribution; the latter is skewed by a high retired population. Rural counties include Lake, Mariposa, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, and Trinity. The San Jose Metropolitan Area shows the lowest physician median age (41.7 years), correlating generally with the fact that this is a young, growing community. The median age in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Metropolitan Area was 45.2 years; the median age in the San Francisco-Oakland Metropolitan Area was 43.9 years.

Technical Notes

These tables represent some of the salient points in the first phase of the Study of the Characteristics of Physicians in California. A more detailed compilation of tables will be available for distribution in the near future. They will contain the following information: Sex and age of all physicians, A.M.A. membership by county medical society jurisdiction and by type of practice, types of service of federal service physicians, more complete breakdown by specialties by county medical society jurisdictions, further details as to age distribution by geographic area, and type of practice of physicians in private practice for counties and for county medical society

³This figure does not appear in Table 4.

jurisdictions. They can be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Research and Planning of the California Medical Association.

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Use of, and Satisfaction with, C.M.A. Relative Value Studies by Physicians in Active Practice in California

A Report by the Bureau of Research and Planning, California Medical Association

Data tabulated from the Study of the Characteristics of Physicians in California, conducted by the C.M.A. Bureau of Research and Planning, show that over 70 per cent of all physicians in active private practice utilize the Relative Value Studies, with over 41 per cent stating that they use it "all or most of the time." Use figures range from almost 78 per cent of physicians who participate in some form of prepayment program to under 53 per cent of physicians who do not participate in any such program.

Eighty per cent of all physicians in private practice who use the RVS expressed general satisfaction, with 11.8 per cent dissatisfied and 8.2 per cent stating no opinion as to their satisfaction. Of the 80 per cent who expressed satisfaction, two out of three use the RVS all or most of the time.

THE FOLLOWING ANALYSES discuss the use by physicians in California and their satisfaction with the C.M.A. Relative Value Studies. The information is based upon data collected by the Bureau of Research and Planning in the Fall of 1961. It is the first group of data to be tabulated from the almost 13,000 responses to the Study of Characteristics of Physicians in California, a census questionnaire sent to all physicians in the State as of Spring, 1961.

A total of 11,910 responses were used in compiling the tables shown below. Responses which were